

Sign-A-Song Contest

(Oregon and National Program)

The Oregon State Grange and National Grange are extremely proud to sponsor this deaf awareness program. The Grange encourages communication among all individuals, groups and communities. Through communication, we learn to know each other better. Communication is essential, so that problems can be solved. The world in which we live is full of opportunities for improvement. However, without communication, these improvements would be few and far between. The Sign-A-Song contest promotes the use of non-verbal skills of communication. We encourage Grange members to learn sign language and use it to sign-a-song. It is a beautiful form of communication for many individuals.

State and regional categories

- Novice: One who is beginning to learn sign, has had no more than three sign language classes and has entered the sign-a-song contest no more than two years;
- Hobbyist: One who signs on an occasional basis and strictly for fun and has entered the sign-a-song contest more than two years.
- Group: Two or more people signing.
- Expert: One who signs professionally. Ineligible for Best of Show, but looking for opportunities to encourage others to participate.

Rules

- Oregon may send one entry in each category to the regional competition.
- Participants must supply their own music.
- Three copies of the words that are being signed must be supplied for the judges and turned in to the State Youth Director by **Sunday** of the annual State Grange Convention.

- Anyone who is an expert, professional instructor or receives money for signing may participate but is ineligible to participate at regionals.
- Signers must use total communication techniques: Sign language, facial expressions, mouthing of words for lip reading, finger spelling if appropriate, and body movement.
- **Props and costumes are not allowed;** rhythm is optional.
- Only one song may be signed during the competition performance.
- Participants must sign their own name and song title.
- Participants must inform the audience and judges what type of sign language they will be using (Pidgen, ASL, ESL, etc.).
- Judging guidelines

Utilization of total communication skills:	Max pts
Sign language ability, signs clearly with correct interpretation	32
Body expression, displays emotion, expresses key thoughts with body movements, mouth words for lip reading	30
Presentation, interpret with confidence, uniformity (group)	25
Appropriate song selection, with a clear meaning and is suitable for the contestant's signing ability	10
Signed their own name	1
Signed title of song	1
Informed judges and audience of type of sign language being used	1
	100

- Time Limit: Five minutes; ten points will be deducted for each minute or fraction thereof over the time limit.
- First place winners at state in each category will receive hotel, registration fees, and travel expenses to the regional

competition. The top three in each category will receive a certificate plus 1st place: \$25, 2nd place: \$15, 3rd place: \$10.

- Those wishing to enter must notify the State Youth Director by **May 15**.
- Regional competition: National Grange will provide ribbons for each regional contest for first, second and third. 1st place: \$20, 2nd place: \$15, 3rd place: \$10.
- The Best of Show will receive a special award plus \$25 and be eligible to showcase at the National Grange Convention in November. Showcase acts will receive \$100.00 for participating from National Grange.